DECLARATION

OF THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF the KIRK of

SCOTLAND,

DECLARATION

OF THE

PARLIAMENT

OF

ENGLAND,

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OF THE

PENERAL ASSEMBL

Of the Kirk of

COTLAND,

In Answer to a Declaration, Intituled,

DECLARATION

OF THE

PARLIAMENT

OF

ENGLAND,

Upon the marching of their Army into SCOTLAND, and concerning present Dangers and Duties, in reference both to Sectaries and Malignants.

Printed by VAN TYLER, Printer to the Kings most Excellent Majesty, 1650.

A Declaration *of the Generall Assembly of the Kirk of* Scotland, *in answer to the* Declaration *intituled*, A Declaration of the Parliament of England, *upon the marching of their Army into* Scotland; *and concerning present dangers and duties, in reference both to Sectaries and Malignants.*

ALbeit the Commission of the former Assembly did lately lay open the dangers wherewith the Land is now threatned, and the duties relating thereunto; yet we could neither satisfie the expectation of others, nor have peace in our selves, if in such a day of blasphemie and rebuke, we did not take some pains to discover the snares, and refute the calumnies of Enemies, and exhort the Lords People in this Land to their duties, and encourage them in the performance thereof.

That Invasion which was formerly threatned by that prevailing Party of Sectaries in *England*, is now so far promoted and carryed on, that they are marched into our Border with a numerous Army of Horse and Foot. And that they may deceive the Nations abroad, and such as are simple in this or in our neighbour Land with specious pretexts, they have published unto the world a *Declaration*, wherein they not only declare their resolution concerning the marching of their Army into *Scotland*, but labour to hold forth the justice and necessitie of such resolutions and actings: And although there be not any thing in that Declaration, which a man of ordinary capacity and understanding, who is acquainted with the progresse and estate of affairs in these Kingdomes, and is unbyassed in his judgment and affections, may not answer. Yet lest our silence should stumble any, and that we may help these who are either weak in discerning or ignorant of the publick Proceedings, we shall make [illegible] thereunto.

It is intituled, *A Declaration of the Parliament of England*, as if the [illegible] contained therein had their rise and originall from the lawfull [illegible] and the supreme power of the Kingdom of *England*; But the [illegible] knoweth the contrary. The same proud and tumultuous Army who now threatens us with Invasion, having long ago usurped above the Parliament, put down the House of Lords, and modelled the House of Commons into a poor company of time-serving humours; who fearing men more then they fear God, and desiring to please men rather then God, are content to crouch under the burden, and to lend their names to the counsels and contrivings of the army, and to cloath their insolent and strange actings with that shadow of authority that is in them, as pretending to be a Parliament.

There is little in the Narrative, which may not be sufficiently spoke to when we shall refute the grounds of their Invasion; onely we desire to take notice of these things in it. First, That they do insinuate, that there is a party in *Scotland*, whose principles may dispose them to the same ends with them when they shall have discovered their own true interest. But we blesse the Lord, and dare professe it before the world, that there is no such party in this Land: We know none either in Kirk or State, nor in our Army, who are tainted with their errours, or do not abhorre their designes and actings: and a Sectarie is (by the good hand of God upon the purity of his Ordinances) so rare a thing in *Scotland*, that we think few, or almost none can be named in all the Land. Secondly, they magnifie their own patience, in regard of the making use of force in reference to *Scotland*; By which they do not obscurely proclaime, that the Cockatrice Egg of invading this Kingdom hath been long in hatching amongst them, and that their present actings are but the fruits of former designes whose foundation was laid long ago; The Kirk and Kingdom of *Scotland* being indeed the great eye-sore that hath alwayes stood in that partie way, without whose overthrow they conceive it impossible to establish themselves. Thirdly, they hold out the totall averseness of this Nation to amitie and friendship with their so called Common-wealth, as a thing most apparent, and seemes to pitch upon this, as that which hath broke them from their professed patience, and puts them on to execute what they had formerly designed; which as it doth vindicate these who are now in power in the Land, from all things tending to compliance with that Interest, so doth it prove, that they will make war upon this Kingdom, because they cannot gain them to favour and befriend their way, and [illegible] what they did insinuat concerning a Party therein whose principles may dispose them to the same ends with them.

In the next place, after they have professed their resolutions of sending an Army into *Scotland*, they proceed to speak of the justice, necessitie and ends thereof, for making out the justice of this Invasion. They bring three particulars: The first whereof which they seem to passe in transition, and not to lay much weight upon it, Is, The many wrongs and provocations done by the Commissioners of *Scotland*, whilst they were residing in *England*; which are instanced in their usurping upon Acts of the Legislative power, and their frequent pretensions to, and contestations about a joynt interest in some Acts of it, Their seducing of the People of *England* from their affection and dutie to the Parliament, to embrace and promote the interest of the late King, under pretence of the Covenant, laying amongst the People foundations of concurrence with the future Invasion, &c. It seemes strange to us, that these who have been the greatest Usurpers upon the Legislative power of any who have lived in this Generation, should so much challenge others of usurpation upon it, and pretensions to, and contestations about a joynt interest in it, and that without ground. We are sure that none of the Commissioners from *Scotland*, did ever assume or claim to themselves a vote in the Parliament of *England*. It is true, that as the Kingdom of *Scotland* had joynt Forces in *England*, so their Commissioners were invited and desired to joyn Counsels and resolutions with the *English* in Committees and otherwise, to prosecute the same Cause according to the Covenant and Treaties; and that they contended for a joynt interest in disposing of the Kings Person, as being a thing wherein both Kingdomes were equally concerned; and that they acted in some things of common interest in a coordinate way. It is also true, that by Letters, Remonstrances, and otherwise, they did often incite the Parliament of *England* to their duty, and expresse their dissatisfaction, when they were slack in the same, or averse from it; But all these things are far from usurpations upon the Legislative power of *England*, and pretensions to, and contestations about a joynt interest in Acts of it. If any of them were active in seducing of the People of *England* from their affection and dutie to the Parliament, or did embrace and promote the interest of the late King, under a pretence of the Covenant, further then the Covenant doth oblige them, or did lay amongst the People foundations of concurrence with the future Invasion; of these things, as there was no warrant nor command for them from this Kingdome, so were they never owned by those who now rule more then that Invasion it self was.

The second particular which they pitch upon, is the late invasion of *England*, authorized and commanded by the Parliament of *Scotland*, [illegible]

to heighten it the more they prosecute and aggredge it in severall particulars; as the taking in of *Berwick* and *Carlile*, and the making of warre without any previous declaration of hostilitie, notwithstanding of the Treatie allowing some monthes warning, and of the Parliament of *England* their Commissioners then at *Edinburgh* offering to compose all differences by a Treatie, and the conjunction with the late Kings partie under *Langdale*. This invation, as they fancie to themselves, doth demonstrate the justice of their present undertaking. It is unto us matter of much griefe that a backslyding partie in this land did contrive and carry on that unlawfull Engagement, which hath been a seed of so many evills both of sin and affliction in both Kingdomes, and we wish that these engagers be deeplie humbled before the Lord for so great a provocation as long as they live; Yet are we astonished to see those who in their consciences cannot but be convinced of the iniquity of such a ground, now charged it upon this land as the matter of a just quarrel wherupon to found an offensive warre. We do rejoyce before the Lord, that though in many things we have transgressed against him, Yet have they nothing in that particular wherewith they can or ought to charge this Kirk and Kingdom, much lesse that which by reason of any accession thereto may be a just ground of warre, which wee do demonstrate by these three reasons, 1. Because not only did the whole ministerie and body of the people of the land joyne in their prayers and supplications in private and in publick to God against the same, and the ministers everie where in their sermons beare clere Testimonie from Gods word against it, and all the Kirk Iudicatories, Synods, Presbyteries and Sessions, and many Committees of warre in the severall shyres petition the Parliament against it, But also a very considerable partie of the Parliament, even those very persons who are now in place and power, did dissent from it, and protest against it in open Parliament; And as the General Assembly, in the very time of the prosecution of it, did publish to the world a declaration, wherein they proveit contrary to the word of God and to the Covenant, so did those members of Parliament who had from the beginning appeared against it in their judgments and votes, take hold of the first opportunitie for acting against the same and the instruments thereof in armes; And no sooner had they libertie to sit in a Committee of States, but they declared against the same, and the Parliament a little thereafter did disclaime and repeale the same, and all acts relating thereunto. God is witnesse how that Engagement was caried on with a high hand by a prevailing partie of Malignants, against the hearts of all the honest people in the land, and how great affliction it was to their spirits, and how much they suffered in their persons, consciences and estates in opposing thereof,

and thereafter to give obedience thereto. Secondly the House of Commons then sitting at *Westminster* was so farre convinced of the innocencie of this land in that particular, that they themselves in their letter to the Generall Assembly of the date the of 1648 did bear Testimonie to it in these words [They are assured, that these impious and unwarrantable actions cannot be done with the approbation and assent of the Religious and well affected people of the Kingdome of *Scotland* And that they, doe understand that there are very few amongst these who were in the Engagement against them that first engaged with them in the Covenant and cause, but such as are professed enemies to them, however they were content to pretend thereunto that they might the better deceive the people of *England*, And therefore they are unwilling to impute such evills to this Nation in Generall.] And doth not Lieutenant Generall *Cromwel* himself in his letter to *William Lenthall* Speaker of the House of Commons of the 9th of *October* 1648. written from *Dalhousie* professe that he dare say, that that partie (meaning those who carried on the unlawfull Engagement) with their pretences, had not only through the treacherie of some in *England* endangered the whole state and Kingdom of *England*, but also brought *Scotland* into such a condition, as that no honest man that had the fear of God or a conscience of Religion, the just ends of the Covenant and Treaties, could have a being in that Kingdom. Thirdly the Parliament of *England* did in the same year in the moneth of *September*, or there abouts pass votes for the marching of their Army into *Scotland*, to persue the remnant of that enemie who had carried on the Engagement, & afterwards for the assistance of these who are now in place & power in *Scotland* against that partie which votes with their order were sent to Lieutenant Generall *Cromwell*, and, he in obedience thereto, and prosecution thereof, came into *Scotland*, & did at his removall, leave two Regiments of horse and two troups of dragoons in *Scotland*, untill the forces then designed by the Committee of Estates, were levied, which things prove that both he and the Parliament of *England*, were then so farre from looking upon those now in trust, as having any hand in the unlawfull Engagement, that they looked upon them as a partie whom they were bound to assist against the oppression and violence of these who carried it on. Since the beginning of the work of God, there hath not been any course promoted by malignants in these Kingdomes which was more openly and clearlie & avowedlie borne testimonie against then that Engagement was by this land, so that there is no more cause why any should charge this upon *Scotland*, then there was cause for the malignants to charge upon it rebellion and disloyalty, and the late Kings death with all those strange and uncouth actings of Sectaries in reference to R-

ligion and Government, And we trust that the same Lord who hath vindicated this Kirk and Kingdom, from the one, and returned it upon the head of the contrivers of such calumnies, shall also vindicate us from the other, and render the reward of such iniquitie upon those who doe unjustlie charge it upon us. We know that it is all cadged by them, that all the Parliament of *Scotland* concurred in designe to make a pray to themselves of the English, though some difference fell amongst them who should have the greatest power of command. But besides that, this contradicts their own testimonies formerlie alleadged, the dissent and protestation given in by those members of Parliament who opposed the Engagement, The eight desires of the commission of the Generall Assembly, The many petitions from Presbyteries and Synods, and Committees of warre in thyres seconding the same, and desiring satisfaction to their consciences concerning the grounds thereof, Together with the humble representation of the commission upon the Parliaments declaration, and many other publick papers prove, that the question was not only about persons, who should be intrusted, but about the lawfulnesse and necessitie of the war, the securitie of religion, the associating with malignants, the undertaking of a warre without a previous Treatie, and many other things of great consequence, and those who were then witnes to publick proceedings, & studied to reconcile differences, can beare testimonie how large proffers of satisfaction were made concerning persons and instruments upon condition of concurrance in the warre. And we believe that the commissioners of the Parliament of *England*, who were then at *Edinburgh*, will deny none of these things, nay, will bear testimony that no endeavors were wanting upon the part of these who dissented from, and protested against the Engagement to make the offers of the Commissioners for composing differences betwixt the Nations effectuall.

The next thing whereby they labour to demonstrate the justice of their invasion is, as they call it, the pretentions of the Kingdom of *Scotland* to matters of their government, and taking upon them to determine what is fundamentall in *England*, and to direct and threaten them if they change not what is now established, and forme to their mind, or accomodate it to their interests, which they usher in and amplifie with a long deduction of their kindnesses to this land by their assistance given to our Army against those at *Stirling* upon the re-iterated invitations of the Committee of Estates for that effect as they are pleased to alleadge, from which they conclude this Kingdome under a great deale of ingratitude: What their kindnesses unto this land were at that time, we shall not now stand debate, but if a right reckoning shall be made, sure we are that they

Scotland

Scotlands debtours much more then *Scotland* is theirs. Who was it that raised them out of the duſt when they were like to be cruſhed under the prevailing power of the Popiſh, Prelaticall, and Malignant Party? Did not the Lord bleſſe for that effect the concurrence of the *Scottiſh* Army with the Forces of the Parliament of *England*, upon the grounds of the Covenant and Treatie, both which the Party who now prevails, have troden under foot? And for their coming into *Scotland*, we think themſelves will not deny; but it was by the Order and Authority of the Parliament of *England*, for purſuing the common Enemy; and that this order was previous to the ſending or coming of any from the Committee of Eſtates into the Army; Neither was the buſineſſe of theſe who were ſent to them to invite them to our aſſiſtance, but ſeeing they had intimate that in obedience to the order received from the Parl. of *England*, they did intend to come into this Kingdom, that they might deal with them ſo to order their coming, both for the number and quality of the Forces which they ſhould ſend, that they might neither be a burden nor offence to the Countrey; therefore were they inſtructed to deſire, that the number of the Forces that ſhould be ſent into *Scotland*, ſhould not exceed Four Thouſand, and to endeavour that Presbyterian Miniſters might come in with them, and that no Gentleman, Officer, or Souldier at all, or any other not allowed by the Church, ſhould come hither to preach to any of their Forces, and that none ſhould come here to vent ſtrange opinions, contrary to the Confeſſion of Faith, Catechiſme, Directory and form of Church-Government eſtabliſhed by the Houſes, nor any wayes diſturb the Peace of this Church; but on the contrary, that they ſhould be ſuch as would be ready to preſerve the Doctrine, Diſcipline and Government thereof, againſt the common Enemy, according to the Covenant.

The Kingdom of *Scotlands* pretenſions to their Government, and taking upon them to determine what is Fundamentall in *England*, is inſtanced in the Proteſtation given in by the Commiſſioners of this Kingdom at *Weſtminſter*, againſt their changing of Government &c. A duty which they could not have omitted, and this Kingdom could not but have owned, unleſſe they would have involved themſelves in the guilt and ſcandall of compliance with them in ſuch deſignes. Was it a fault in the Kingdom of *Scotland*, who are under ſo many tyes to Monarchicall Government, and under one King, and one Covenant with the Kingdom of *England*, and who did fore-ſee many great prejudices and ſad conſequences to follow unto both Kingdoms upon the change of Government in *England*, Was it a fault in them, after the uſe of all other fair meanes

to protest against the proceedings of a prevailing Party, who had usurped upon the Parliament, and not only taken away Monarchie, which was the auncient and long-continued Government of *England*, but also taken away the House of Lords, and destroyed the King. Shall it be lawfull for them who were but servants of the Parliament of *England* to do such things? and shall it not be lawfull to the Kingdom of *Scotland* to protest against them? Or shall such a Protestation grounded upon the Covenant and Treaty, and Declarations of both Kingdoms, and other solid grounds of reason and conscience, and intended as an exoneration of this Kingdom in a necessary point of duty, demonstrate the justice of an Invasion against the makers thereof? Albeit it doth much afflict our sprits to think, that the issues of blood which have run in these Kingdoms these years past, are like to be opened anew again, yet in this we rejoyce, that after that Party hath exercised all their invention for finding out the just grounds of a War against this Kingdom, they can find nothing but the late Unlawfull Engagement, whereof this Land was innocent, and the Protestation against their proceedings, which was a necessary and harmlesse duty.

In the next place, they declare the necessity under which they are concluded to make this present Expedition; which necessity they labour to evince upon two alleageances; One is, because as they affirm, all fair and amicable wayes of procuring a reparation of the great dammages which their Nation sustained by occasion of the late Invasion, have been rejected and denyed, and that by the Parliament of *Scotland*, and Power now ruling, whereby they have owned the wrong and dammages done by that Invasion. But was it not injustice to demand reparation of these dammages from the present Parliament of *Scotland*, and Power now ruling, they and their adherents having suffered more by that Engagement, because they would not concur therein, then *England* did, and having disclaimed all accession thereto; and upon a demand from the Parliament of *England*, of assurance from this Kingdom thereanent, having engaged themselves in the name of the Kingdom of *Scotland*, that none who had been active or consenting to the said Engagement against *England*, or had been lately in Arms at *Stirling* or elsewhere, in maintenance or pursuance of that Engagement, should be imployed in any publick place or trust whatsoever, without the advice and consent of the Kingdom of *England*, and that they would be alwayes ready to give satisfaction to the Honourable Houses in every thing which might conduce for strengthening the Union, and settling the Peace betwixt the Kingdoms, as appears by the Letter of the Committee of Estates of the 6. of

October

October 1648. And since that time, albeit the Parliament of *Scotland* would not condiscend to a Treaty with that Party who now threat ns us with War, lest it should have imported an acknowledging of them for the supreme authority of *England*, who yet were but intruders therein, and usurpers thereupon; yet did they not refuse all fair and amicable wayes of reparation, but desired to know the particular wrongs and dammage, and upon knowledge thereof, offered to give just satisfaction. The other allegeance whereupon they found the necessity of an Invasion, is, a design and resolution to invade them, which they conclude to be evident from these grounds; First, because the Parliament of this Kingdom upon occasion of their demanding of a Treaty for satisfaction for the former Invasion, do in expresse terms declare themselves Enemies to the Government of their so called Common-wealth: Secondly, because they have taken upon them in *Scotland* to proclaim *Charles Stewart* King of *England* and *Ireland*, and in their Treaty with him, have promised their assistance against *England*: Thirdly, because as in the year 1648. a Treaty was refused, and the desires of the Parliament of *England* thereanent answered with the immediat march of an Army into that Land; So the amicable offer of a Treaty for Peace being again refused, another Invasion is to be expected: Fourthly, because *Scotland* hes equally declared against them as Sectaries, as they have done against those of *Montrose* his Party, putting them in the same rank with Malignants and Papists, &c. Hence they conclude a necessity laid upon them of sending an Army into *Scotland*, for preventing the inconveniences that would follow amongst the people of *England* by an Invasion from hence.

The Lord is witnesse, how tender this Kirk and Kingdom hes a wayes been to preserve the Union and Peace betwixt Kingdoms. This was one of the grounds upon which they protested against, and opposed the late unlawfull Engagement, choosing rather to suffer all the injury and violence that the Malignant Party who carried it on, could do unto them, than to be accessory to an Invation against *England*: And in order also to this, the Parliament of *Scotland* in their Letter of the 6. of *March* to the Speaker of the House of Commons, and Instructions sent therewith to their Commissioners 1649. And lately again in another Letter to the same Speaker of the House of Commons, do acknowledge their obligation, and declare their resolutions to observe the rule of remonstrating first the breaches of Peace, of craving just reparation, of using all fair means, of giving a preceeding warning of three Moneths before any Engagement in these Kingdoms in War, and do hold forth this way of procedour in clearing each other, and dealing plainly, as agreeable not on-

ly to particular Treaties, and to the many Letters, Bands and Declarations past betwixt the ingdoms, but also to the Law of God, and Practice of his People in his Word, and to the Common law and practice of Heathen Nations, much more Christian Covenanted Kingdoms; and plainly profesſe their confidence, that God who is in Covenant with theſe Kingdoms, and did take order with thoſe of this Nation who did unlawfully engage againſt *England* in the year 1648. doth ſtill live and reign, and will bring ſhame and ruine upon whatſoever Party in either of theſe Nations, that without a neceſſary cauſe, and a clear calling, and without obſervance of the aforeſaid rules and order, ſhall offend and invade the other Nation. In all which, the Commiſſion of the former Aſſembly in that late Warning do profeſſe, that they do agree with the Parliament in their judgments and reſolutions thereanent, and conceive, that the whole Land is bound to tread the ſame ſteps, and to walk according to the ſame rules; but this Letter going upon ſo cleer grounds of reaſon and conſcience, and contributing ſo much for clearing of the reſolutions of this Kingdom in the point of invaſion, albeit ſent unto them of late, with an expreſſe, they have concealed, neither our returned any anſwer thereto.

As to the firſt ground whereupon they conclude a deſign and reſolution of this Kingdom again to invade them: It is true that this Kirk and Kingdom have often in their Letters, Proteſtations, Remonſtrances, and Declarations, born teſtimony againſt the change of Government, and the late proceedings in *England*, and refuſed to acknowledge their authority. And this they conceived, and ſtill conceive themſelves bound to do, not only in order to the preſerving of Peace and Union betwixt the Kingdoms, but alſo by many other Bands and obligations. But doth a teſtimony againſt the ſinfulneſſe and unlawfulneſſe of any courſe, or a refuſing to acknowledge unjuſt uſurpations, neceſſarily infer reſolutions to make War upon the Authors and Abettours of theſe things? The uſurpations and tyranny of the Pope hes been often declared and teſtified againſt by many Proteſtant Kirks and States, was there therefore actuall purpoſes and reſolutions to make War upon him? Who ſees not the weakneſſe of this ground? Neither is the next concerning the King any ſtronger: Becauſe to proclaim him King of *England* and *Ireland*, is not to aſſume or uſurp any authority or dominion over *England*, but only to declare his juſt title and right to that Crown; theſe were no other than the common way ſtill followed in both Kingdoms ſince they were united under one King. Was it a fault in *England* to proclaim his Father King of *Scotland*? or would the proclaiming of him King of *France* have proven, that theſe Kingdoms had a purpoſe to make War upon *France*? As to the third, it doth

not

not hold, that because these who carried on the unlawfull Engagement followed their refusing of a Treatie with *England*, with an invasion, that therefore upon the new refusall of a Treatie they have reason to expect another invasion, It is well known that the principles and actings of those who are now in place and power in this land are farre different from the principles and actings of those who carried on the Engagement; And that the last refusall of a Treatie was not from a resolution to invade, but because the usurping partie in *England* could not be acknowledged for the suprem authoritie of that Kingdom. And for the treatie with the King; As this Kingdome hath gone upon no other grounds then were accorded by the Parliament of both Kingdomes, so have they promised nothing to him but that to which their dutie doth obleige them, to wit that they would by al lawful means within their power and calling according to the Covenant contribute their endeavours for his peaceable restitution to the government of his other dominions; And in al resolutions & actings either in reference to the King or to the defence of the Countrie, We trust that this Kirk and Kingdom shall obtain mercy of God to be far from owning the principles or treading in the paths of the Malignant partie.

For the fourth, This Kirk and Kingdom hath indeed declared against them as Sectaries, as they have done against those of *Montrosse* his party, and have put them in the same rank, on the right hand with papists and Malignants on the left, A duty of which this land needs not to be ashamed, but may still own it before God, Angels and men. Yet doth not that conclude designs and resolutions against them to invade them, seeing their errours and sinfull courses may well be testified against by many who has no purpose to make war upon them. And as their arguments do not conclude a purpose to invade; so hath there not, for ought that we know, been any such design laid, or any such question hitherto debated in the publick counsells of this Land, let be to be using policies either abroad or at home for compleating thereof. They labour to heighten the injury done unto them by these Declarations, by telling the world that this Land cannot but know the faith which they professe, who desire to worship God in the Spirit, rejoycing in Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh, having their hope of Justification, remission of sins in the Blood of Christ, mourning from their very souls, that any turn that grace into wantonnesse, being ready to bear their witnesse against them, and desirous that the licentious practices of these who do so, should be punished by the Magistrate: Where to say nothing of their exceeding short coming; That which they do in these words declare in reference to Religion and their actings there about, We desire all the people of God in these Kingdoms to con-

ſider how they acquit themſelves in theſe things which they profeſſe, and how theſe things can conſiſt with their ſilence at many groſſe errors and blaſphemies, and with the vaſt toleration which they allow; Have we ſo much from the pretended Parliament, or Councell, of State or Army in *England*, as any publick teſtimony or witneſſe againſt the many errors and groſſe blaſphemies againſt the Son of God that abound in that Land? let be any puniſhment execute upon ſuch by the Civile Magiſtrate, or any evidence of any purpoſe to eſtabliſh either Doctrine, or Worſhip, or Government in the Houſe of God in that Land. Since they appeal to the knowledge of this Nation, concerning the faith they profeſſe, We cannot but declare, that we know it not, unleſſe it be a mixture of Arianiſme, Socinianiſme, Antinomianiſme, Familiſme, Antiſcripturiſme, Anabaptiſme, Eraſtianiſme and Independencie; for all theſe, and many other of that kinde are not only Tollerated, but in effect countenanced and owned amongſt them, a thing exceedingly to be bewailled by all who know the truth, and deſire to walk therein.

After they have ſpoken ſmoorh words for themſelves, they Declare their thoughts of this Nation, which are, That an Intereſt of Dominion and profite under a pretence of Presbytery and the Covenant, is of more value and eſteem with it then the Peace and love of the Goſpel, to which all that may be called Diſcipline or Government in the Land is and ought to be ſubordinate, and for which the leaſt violation of the love and peace before mentioned ought not to be. Of what value the peace and love of the Goſpel is with the Lords people in this Land, God and their own conſcience doth know, and how far they have been from preferring unto the ſame any intereſt of dominion and profit, under pretence of Presbytery and the Covenant, the conſtant tenour of their actions bears teſtimony for them, both at home in reference to the King, and abroad in reference to the Kingdom of *England*: Albeit they wanted not opportunities and advantages, which men following an intereſt of dominion and profit, might have made uſe of for attaining their ambitious and coveteous deſigns; Yet have they walked with much moderation, and in the integrity of their hearts keeped their loyalty to the King, and a brotherly correſpondence and duty to *England*, without uſurping upon them many thing; And being ſo far from making profit of them, that they have loſt very much of their blood and means for their ſakes. Neither were Presbytery and the Covenant pretences to them; they have alwayes looked upon the one as the Ordinances of Jeſus Chriſt, and that model of Government laid down in His Word, and by which all the Kirks of Chriſt ought to be moulded to the End of the

 World,

World; and upon the other as a most sacred and solemn tye of their duty which they have endeavoured to follow in the simplicity of their hearts. And albeit we are not ignorant whither their ambiguous way of speaking of Discipline and Government doth tend, yet shall we not deny that these things ought to be subordinate to the Peace and Love of the Gospel: And if it be so, then certainly the Peace and Love of the Gospel doth not weaken or destroy, but strengthen and establish Discipline and Government, and whatsoever weakens or destroyes them, cannot be the true Peace and Love of the Gospel, but some other thing, falsly so called.

In the last place, they speak to the ends of their under-takings, which they professe to be not domination, revenge or worldly gain, but the advancement of Gods glory, the furthering of a just freedom, where God shall minister the opportunitie, the procuring of a fit satisfaction for what is past, and the settling a clear security for the time to come against the like injuries and mischief. It is to us a great grief of spirit, that the Lords Name should be so prophaned and abused to so impious and unjust actions; and we trust, that he who sees and knowes, that these mens way have disgraced the Throne of his Glory, will vindicat his own Name. As for the rest of the motives of their under-taking, which concern freedom, and satisfaction, and security, we can put no other construction upon them, then that they do intend to invade this Land upon a design (under a pretence of freedom) to over-turn Religion and Government both Civill and Ecclesiastick, and set up here their vast Toleration in Religion, as they have done in *England*, and not only to rob us of the blessing and beauty of the Lords pure Ordinances, but to bring in bondage the consciences of the People of God, under the oath of some unlawfull engagement, and to reduct this Kingdom into a Province, upon which they may prey at their pleasure, under pretence of satisfaction for what is past, and security for the time to come. Which things, all that love Religion or their Countrey in this Land cannot but abhorre to hear.

Therefore, albeit we have a righteous Cause, and have done no wrong to those men who devise such things against us, yet it concerns us to be deeply humbled for our many provocations before God, and to pour out our souls before Him, that He may have mercy upon us through Jesus Christ, and save us for His own Names sake; and to do it, not in hypocrisie, but in sincerity and truth. It is one of the great challenges of this Land, that albeit we have sought him when he slew us, yet many amongst us have flattered him with their mouth, and lyed unto him with their tongues, for their hearts were not right with him, neither were they

they ſtedfaſt in his Covenant, therefore many have turned back, and dealt unfaithfully. It concerns all the Inhabitants of the Land, to take heed that they do no more ſo, leſt God be wroth, and forſake his Tabernacle, and deliver his ſtrength into captivitie, and his glory into the hands of enemies hand: And having made peace with God, let us alſo mind honeſtly, and cheerfully go about all the duties that relate to our own defence. We truſt that in ſuch an exigent, no man will value his own things, or care more for his own ſafetie, and the ſafetie of his family, than the publick ſafety of the Land; But that every one in his ſtation will lay himſelf out to the utmoſt, and neither ſpare his perſon nor pains, nor meanes for the acquiting of himſelf, and encouraging of others. Certainly, they ſhall afterwards have moſt peace in themſelves who now prove moſt faithfull and zealous, neither needs any be afraid of the power of the enemy; We have a righteous cauſe, even the ſame which the Lord hath countenanced and carried on theſe yeers over all the ſtrength and oppoſition of every enemy, and we ſtand for the defence of our Religion, Lives, Liberties, Countrey, Families, Eſtates, and every thing that is dear unto us; And our Conſciences do not ſpeak us guilty in any thing before theſe men, nor is there any thing whereof they can juſtly challenge us It: may be matter of comfort to this Land that there is nothing of the Lords controverſie againſt us in their quarrell. We entered in a Covenant with them, and helped them in the day of their diſtreſſe, and now after all their breach of Covenant at home in their own Land, they have alſo forgot the Oath of God to us-ward, and come againſt us to caſt us out of the poſſeſsion which he hath given us to inherit, or at leaſt to make us ſlaves therein, in theſe things that concerns our perſons, conſciences and eſtates. Shall not our God judge them? Shall they break the Covenant and proſper? Certainly he whoſe Oath they have deſpiſed ſhall be a ſwift witneſſe againſt them, and bring them upon the curſe that goeth forth over the face of the whole earth againſt the falſe ſwearer: We take not upon us to determine events, but the Word of the Lord is true in all generations: he hath ſhewed himſelf at all times, and in all the parts of the World a ſevere avenger of the breach of the Covenant, eſpecially upon thoſe who have pretended His Name thereto. We deſire to remember theſe men how mighty and terrible the Lords hand was againſt thoſe, who carried on the unlawfull engagement, and to put him who commands their forces in minde of a paſſage of a Letter of his own, written from *Dalhouſie* to the Speaker of the Houſe of Commons, Where ſpeaking of the [illegible]

[illegible] upon such prophanity, even to [illegible] and admiration he writeth thus: I wish from the bottom of my heart, it may cause all to tremble and repent who have practised the like, to the blaspheming of His Name, and the destruction of His people, so as they may not presume the like again. And we wish that he and all his adherents may take warning from his own words, and so much the rather, because in many things in their proceedings against this Land they tread the steps who carried on the late engagement against *England*, especially in breaking the Covenant, and making a War under a collor of fair and specious pretences of Gods glory and just freedom, and satisfaction and security, not only without just grounds inducing the lawfulnesse and necessity thereof, but also without any previous warning given to this Land concerning the same; And shall not these, who partake in the same sins, fear to partake of the same Plagues.

Albeit our greatest hazard & most eminet danger be for the present from Sectaries, yet would we not forget altogether the Malignant partie, against whom we have been wrastling these many years. There be still many such in all the three Kingdoms whose counsels and snares, it concerns all these that are in publick trust especially the Kings Majestie, to take heed of and avoid, that he and this Land be not envolved thereby in new meseries and calamities. We look upon it as a rich mercie that God hath inclined his heart to seperate himself from those mens counsels, and to swear and subscribe the National Covenant and the Solemn League and Covenant, and joyn himself to his people; which we trust by the influence of the Grace of God upon his heart, making him act in his royoll person in sincerity and truth for all the ends thereof, shall prove a solid foundation of honour and happinesse to himself, and of a lasting peace to all his Subjects, whom we desire not only to pray for him, but to their hearts each one affections to cleave to him, and to obey him and the Parliament and their Committees in all things according to the will of God; hoping that he shall rule in righteousnesse and equitie for the honour of God, the good of Religion and the welfare of his people, and that he will study to order his familiy after the pattern of the Lords word, in removing the wicked from him, and having his eyes upon the faithfull of the land that they may dwell with him; And being in all things an ensample of holinesse, righteousnesse and sobrietie, which as it is our humble and faithfull advice to the King, so we exhort all those who are in publick trust in the Committee of Estates or otherwayes, not only to take heed of their private walking that it be sutable to the gospel of Iesus Christ, and of their

families and followers, that they be void of offence, but also be straight and faithfull in the Covenant and cause of God, & not to seek themselves, nor befriend any who have been enemies to the Lords work; false seeking and conniving at, and complying with, and pleading for Malignants, having been publick sinnes that have been often complained of: and we wish to God there were no cause to complain of those things still, notwithstanding of the solemn confessing of them, and engaging against them. God forbid that any mock the Lord, he is a severe avenger of all such things, and there is the more reason at this time not to own Malignants, because it is ordinary for men so to be taken with the sence of the danger that is before them, as not to look back to that which is behind them. There may be inclinations in some to imploy these men, and make use of their people that we may be strengthened thereby in this and in our neighbour land; But God hath hitherto cursed all such councells, and blasted such resolutions, and if we shall again fall into this sin, as our guilt shall be so much the greater by reason of many promises and Engagements to the contrarie, So may we expect a heavier judgment from the Lord upon it. Let us keep the Lords way, and though we be few and weak, the Lord shall be with us and make us to prosper and prevail. They are not fit for the work of God and for the glorious dispensations of his more then ordinarie workes of power and providence in these times, who can not beleive nor act any thing beyond what sence and reason can make clear unto them, from the beginning to the end of their undertakings; former experiences and present straits cal upon us that we should act and follow our dutie in such a way, as may magnifie the Lord, and make it known to others that we live by faith. Let no mans heart therefore faint nor let no mans hands faile him, but let great and small, officers and shouldiers, ministers and people be strong in the Lord, and doe their duetie as he calles them to it, and let us play the men for our people and for the cities of our God, and let the Lord doe what seemeth good in his eyes.

A. Ker.

Edinburgh. 19. July, 1650 Antemeridiem, Sess 13.